

NUM

NULL. *n. f.* Something of no power, or no meaning. Marks in ciphered writing which stand for nothing, and are inserted only to puzzle, are called *nulls*.

If part of the people be somewhat in the election, you cannot make them *nulls* or ciphers in the privation or translation. *Bacon's War with Spain.*

NULLITY. *n. f.* [from *nullus*, Latin.] The state of being nowhere.

TO NULLIFY. *v. a.* [from *nullus*, Latin.] To annul; to make void.

NULLITY. *n. f.* [nullité, French.]

1. Want of force or efficacy. It can be no part of my business to overthrow this distinction, and to shew the nullity of it; which has been solidly done by most of our polemic writers. *South's Sermons.*

The jurisdiction is opened by the party, in default of justice from the ordinary, as by appeals or nullities. *Ayliffe.*

2. Want of existence. A hard body struck against another hard body, will yield an exterior sound, in so much as if the percussion be over soft, it may induce a nullity of sound; but never an interior sound. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*

NUMB. *adj.* [benumen, benumbed, Saxon.]

1. Torpid; deprived in a great measure of the power of motion and sensation; chill; motionless.

Like a stony statue, cold and numb. *Shakespeare.* Leaning long upon any part maketh it numb and asleep; for that the compression of the part suffereth not the spirits to have free access; and therefore when we come out of it, we feel a stinging or pricking, which is the re-entrance of the spirits. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*

2. Producing chillness; benumbing. When we both lay in the field, Frozen almost to death, how he did lap me Ev'n in his garments, and did give himself All thin and naked to the numb cold night. *Shakespeare.*

TO NUMB. *v. a.* To make torpid; to make dull of motion or sensation; to deaden; to stupefy.

Bedlam beggars, with roaring voices Strike in their numb'd and mortify'd bare arms, Pins, wooden pricks, nails, sprigs of rosemary; And with this horrible object, from low farms, Inforce their charity. *Shakespeare's Lear.*

She can unlock The clasp'd charm, and thaw the numbing spell. *Milton.* Plough naked, fawn, and naked sow the land, For lazy winter numbs the lab'ring hand. *Dryden.*

Nought shall avail The pleasing song, or well repeated tale, When the quick spirits their warm march forbear, And numbing coldness has unbrac'd the ear. *Prior.* The fool numbs me like the torpor. *Belongs to Swift.*

NUMBEDNESS. *n. f.* [from *numbed*.] Torpor; interruption of sensation.

If the nerve be quite divided, the pain is little, only a kind of stupor or numbedness. *Wise's Surgery.*

TO NUMBER. *v. a.* [numbrer, French; numerus, Latin.]

1. To count; to tell; to reckon how many.

If a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered. *Gen. xiii. 16.*

Number them by their armies. *Numbers i. 3.* I will number you to the sword. *Is. lxx. 12.*

The gold, the vest, the tripods number'd o'er, All these he found. *Pope's Odyssey, b. 13.*

2. To reckon as one of the same kind. He was numbered with the transgressors, and bare the sin of many. *Is. liii. 12.*

NUMBER. *n. f.* [nombre, French; numerus, Latin.]

1. The species of quantity by which it is computed how many.

Hye thee, from this slaughter-house, Left thou increase the number of the dead. *Sha. Rich. III.*

The silver, the gold, and the vessels, were weighed by number and by weight. *Exra viii. 34.*

Thou shalt take a few in number, and bind them in thy skirts. *Ezek. v. 3.*

There is but one gate for strangers to enter at, that it may be known what numbers of them are in the town. *Addison.*

2. Any particular aggregate of units, as even or odd.

This is the third time; I hope good luck lies in odd numbers: they say there is divinity in odd numbers, either in nativity, chance, or death. *Shakespeare's M. W. of Wind.*

3. Many; more than one. Much of that we are to speak may seem to a number perhaps tedious, perhaps obscure, dark, and intricate. *Hosker.*

Water lily hath a root in the ground; and so have a number of other herbs that grow in ponds. *Bacon.*

Ladies are always of great use to the party they espouse, and never fail to win over numbers. *Addison.*

4. Multitude that may be counted. Of him came nations and tribes out of number. *2 Esd. iii. 7.*

Loud as from numbers without number. *Milton.*

5. Comparative multitude. Number itself importeth not much in armies, where the

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people are of weak courage: for, as Virgil says, it never troubles a wolf how many the sheep be. *Bacon.*

6. Aggregated multitude. If you will, some few of you shall see the place; and then you may send for your sick, and the rest of your number, which ye will bring on land. *Bacon's N. Atlantic.*

7. Harmony; proportions calculated by number. They, as they move

Their starry dance in numbers that compute Days, months, and years, towards his all-cheering lamp, Turn swift. *Milton.*

8. Verses; poetry. Should the muses bid my numbers roll Strong as their charms. *Pope.*

9. [In grammar.] In the noun is the variation or change of termination to signify a number more than one. When men first invented names, their application was to single things; but soon finding it necessary to speak of several things of the same kind together, they found it likewise necessary to vary or alter the noun. *Clarke's Lat. Grammar.*

How many numbers is in nouns? — Two. *Shakespeare's Merry W. of Windsor.*

NUMBERER. *n. f.* [from *number*.] He who numbers.

NUMBERLESS. *adj.* [from *number*.] Innumerable; more than can be reckoned.

I forgive all; There cannot be those numberless offences 'Gainst me. *Shakespeare.*

About his chariot numberless were pour'd Cherub and seraph. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*

Defers to great, Though numberless, I never shall forget. *Denham.*

The soul conveys with numberless beings of her own creation. *Addison's Spectator, N. 488.*

He travels then a hundred leagues, And suffers numberless fatigues. *Swift's Miscell.*

NUMBLES. *n. f.* [numbles, Fr.] The entrails of a deer. *Bailly.*

NUMBNESS. *n. f.* [from *numb*.] Torpor; interruption of action or sensation; deadness; stupefaction.

Stir, nay, come away; Bequeath to death your numbness; for from him Dear life redeems you. *Shakespeare's Winter's Tale.*

'Till length of years And sedentary numbness craze my limbs To a contemptible old age obscure. *Milton's Agon.*

Cold numbness strait bereaves Her corps of sense, and th' air her soul receives. *Denham.*

Silence is worse than the fiercest and loudest accusations; since it may proceed from a kind of numbness or stupidity of conscience, and an absolute dominion obtained by sin over the soul, so that it shall not so much as dare to complain, or make a stir. *South's Sermons.*

NUMERABLE. *adj.* [numerabilis, Latin.] Capable to be numbered.

NUMERAL. *adj.* [numeral, Fr. from *numerus*, Latin.] Relating to number; consisting of number.

Some who cannot retain the several combinations of numbers in their distinct orders, and the dependence of so long a train of numeral progressions, are not able all their life time regularly to go over any moderate series of numbers. *Locke.*

NUMERALLY. *adv.* [from *numeral*.] According to number.

The blasts and undulatory breaths thereof, maintain no certainty in their course; nor are they numerally fear'd by navigators. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. vii.*

NUMERARY. *adj.* [numerus, Lat.] Any thing belonging to a certain number.

A supernumerary canon, when he obtains a prebend, becomes a numerary canon. *Ayliffe's Paragon.*

NUMERATION. *n. f.* [numeration, Fr. numeratio, Latin.]

1. The art of numbering. Numeration is but still the adding of one unite more, and giving to the whole a new name or sign, whereby to know it from those before and after. *Locke.*

2. Number contained. In the legs or organs of progression in animals, we may observe an equality of length, and parity of numeration. *Brown.*

3. The rule of arithmetic which teaches the notation of numbers, and method of reading numbers regularly noted.

NUMERATOR. *n. f.* [Latin.]

1. He that numbers.

2. [Numerateur, Fr.] That number which serves as the common measure to others.

NUMERICAL. *adj.* [from *numerus*, Latin.]

1. Numeral; denoting number; pertaining to numbers. The numerical characters are helps to the memory, to record and retain the several ideas about which the demonstration is made. *Locke.*

2. The same not only in kind or species, but number. Contemplate upon his astonishing works, particularly in the resurrection and reparation of the same numerical body, by a re-union of all the scattered parts. *NUMERICALLY.*

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NUMERICALLY. *adv.* [from *numerical*.] Respecting sameness in number.

I must think it improbable, that the sulphur of antimony would be but numerically different from the distilled butter or oil of roses. *Boyle.*

NUMERIST. *n. f.* [from *numerus*, Latin.] One that deals in numbers.

We cannot assign a respective fatality unto each which is concordant unto the doctrine of the numerists. *Brown.*

NUMEROUSITY. *n. f.* [from *numerosus*, Latin.]

1. Number; the state of being numerous.

Of assertion if numerosity of assertions were a sufficient demonstration, we might sit down herein as an unquestionable truth. *Brown's V. Errors.*

2. Harmony; numerous flow.

NUMEROUS. *adj.* [numerosus, Latin.]

1. Containing many; consisting of many; not few; many. Queen Elizabeth was not so much observed for having a numerous, as a wise council. *Bacon.*

We reach our foes, Who now appear so numerous and bold. *Waller.*

2. Harmonious; consisting of parts rightly numbered; melodious; musical.

Thy heart, no ruler than the rugged stone, I might, like Orpheus, with my num'rous moan Melt to compassion. *Waller.*

His verses are so numerous, so various, and so harmonious, that only Virgil, whom he professedly imitated, has surpassed him. *Dryden.*

NUMEROUSNESS. *n. f.* [from *numerosus*.]

1. The quality of being numerous.

2. Harmony; musicalness. That which will distinguish his style is, the numerousness of his verse. There is nothing so delicately turned in all the Roman language. *Dryden.*

NUMMARY. *adj.* [from *nummus*, Latin.] Relating to money.

The money drachma in process of time decreas'd; but all the while the ponderal drachma continued the same, just as our ponderal libra remains as it was, though the nummary hath much decreas'd. *Arbutnot on Coins.*

NUMMULAR. *adj.* [nummularius, Latin.] Relating to money. *Ditt.*

NUMSKULL. *n. f.* [Probably from *numb*, dull, torpid, insensible, and *skull*.]

1. A dullard; a dunce; a dolt; a blockhead.

Or toes and fingers, in this case, Of Numskulls self should take the place. *Prior.*

2. The head. In burlesque. They have talk'd like numskulls. *Arb. and Pope.*

NUMSKULLED. *adj.* [from *numskull*.] Dull; stupid; doltish.

Hocus has faw'd that clod-pated, numskulled, ninyhammer of yours from ruin, and all his family. *J. Bull.*

NUN. *n. f.* A woman dedicated to the severer duties of religion, secluded in a cloister from the world, and debarred by a vow from the converse of men.

My daughters Shall be praying nuns, not weeping queens. *Shakespeare.*

The most blooming toast in the island might have been a nun. *Addison's Freeholder, N. 4.*

To see her cloister'd like a nun. *Swift's Miscell.*

NUNCIATURE. *n. f.* [from *nuncio*, Latin.] The office of a nuncio.

NUNCIO. *n. f.* [Italian, from *nuncio*, Latin.]

1. A messenger; one that brings tidings.

She will attend it better in thy youth Than in a nuncio of more grave aspect. *Shakespeare.*

Rhodians had a solemn song to welcome in the swallow. *Bro.*

2. A kind of spiritual envoy from the pope. This man was honoured with the character of nuncio to the Venetians. *Atterbury.*

NUNCION. *n. f.* A piece of victuals eaten between meals. Laying by their swords and truncheons, They took their breakfasts or their nuncions. *Hud.*

NUNCUPATIVE. *adj.* [nuncupatus, Lat. nuncupativus, Fr.] Publicly or solemnly declaratory; verbally pronounced.

NUNDINAL. *adj.* [nundinal, Fr. from *nundine*, Lat.] Being long to fairs.

NUNNERY. *n. f.* [from *nun*.] A house of nuns; of women under a vow of chastity, dedicated to the severer duties of religion.

I put your sister into a nunnery, with a strict command not to see you, for fear you should have wrought upon her to have taken the habit. *Dryden's Spanish Friar.*

NUPTIAL. *adj.* [nuptial, French; nuptialis, Latin.] Pertaining to marriage; constituting marriage; used or done in marriage.

Confirm that amity

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With nuptial knot, if thou vouchsafe to grant Bona to England's king. *Shakespeare.*

Because propagation of families proceedeth from the nuptial copulation, I desired to know of him what laws and customs they had concerning marriage. *Bacon.*

Then all in heat They light the nuptial torch. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*

Whoever will partake of God's secrets, must first pare off whatsoever is amiss, and not eat of this sacrifice with a defiled head, nor come to this feast without a nuptial garment. *Taylor.*

Fir'd with her love, and with ambition led, The neighb'ring princes court her nuptial bed. *Dryden.*

Let our eternal peace be seal'd by this, With the first ardour of a nuptial kiss. *Dryden's Aurengzebe.*

NUPTIALS. *n. f.* like the Latin without singular. [nuptiae, Lat.] Marriage.

This is the triumph of the nuptial day, My better nuptials, which in spite of fate, For ever join me to my dear Morat. *Dryden's Aurengzebe.*

2. It is in Shakespeare singular, but contrarily to use. Lift up your countenance, as 'twere the day Of celebration of that nuptial, which We two have sworn shall come. *Shakespeare's W. Tale.*

NURSE. *n. f.* [nourrice, French.]

1. A woman that has the care of another's child. Unnatural curiosity has taught all women, but the beggar, to find out nurses, which necessity only ought to commend. *Raleigh's History of the World.*

2. A woman that has care of a sick person. Never master had, A page so kind, so duteous, diligent, So feat, so nurse-like. *Shakespeare's Cymbeline.*

One Mrs. Quickly, which is in the manner of his nurse, or his dry nurse or his cook. *Shakespeare's M. W. of Wind.*

3. One who breeds, educates, or protects. Rome, the nurse of judgment, Invited by your noble self, hath sent One general tongue unto us. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*

We must lose The country, our dear nurse, or else thy person, Our comfort in the country. *Shakespeare's Coriolanus.*

4. An old woman in contempt. Can tales more senseless, ludicrous, and vain, By winter-fires old nurses entertain? *Blackmore.*

5. The state of being nursed. Can wedlock know so great a curse, As putting husbands out to nurse? *Cleaveland.*

6. In composition, any thing that supplies food. Put into your breeding pond three melters for one spawner; but if into a nurse pond or feeding pond, then no care is to be taken. *Walton's Angler.*

TO NURSE. *v. a.* [from the noun, or by contraction from *nourish*, *nourrir*, Fr.]

1. To bring up a child not one's own. Shall I call a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child? *Ex. ii. 7.*

2. To bring up any thing young. I was nursed in swaddling cloaths with cares. *Wisd. vii. 7.*

3. To feed; to keep; to maintain. Him in Egerian groves Aricia bore, And nurs'd his youth along the marshy shore. *Dryden.*

4. Thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side. The Nileans in their dark abode, Nurs'd secretly with milk the thriving God. *Addison.*

5. To pamper; to foment; to encourage; to soften; to cherish. And what is strength, but an effect of youth, which if time nurse, how can it ever cease? *Davies.*

By what fate has vice so thriven amongst us, and by what hands been nurs'd up into so uncontroll'd a dominion? *Locke on Education.*

Our monarchs were acknowledged here, That they their churches nursing fathers were. *Denham.*

NURSER. *n. f.* [from *nurse*.]

1. One that nurses. See where he lies, inhered in the arms Of the most bloody nurse of his harms. *Shakespeare.*

2. A promoter; a fomentor.

NURSERY. *n. f.* [from *nurse*.]

1. The act or office of nursing. I lov'd her most, and thought to set my rest On her kind nursery. *Shakespeare's K. Lear.*

2. That which is the object of a nurse's care. She went forth among her fruits and flow'rs, To visit how they prosper'd, bud and bloom. *Milton.*

Her nursery: they at her coming sprung, And touch'd by her fair tendance gladder grew. *Milton.*

3. A plantation of young trees to be transplanted to other ground. Your nursery of stocks ought to be in a more barren ground than the ground is whereunto you remove them. *Bacon.*

My